



GROW AT HOME

DAILY DEVOTION

DAY 29

READ

PSALM 41 | FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- ¹ BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE REGARD FOR THE WEAK;
THE LORD DELIVERS THEM IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
- ² THE LORD PROTECTS AND PRESERVES THEM—
THEY ARE COUNTED AMONG THE BLESSED IN THE LAND—
HE DOES NOT GIVE THEM OVER TO THE DESIRE OF THEIR FOES.
- ³ THE LORD SUSTAINS THEM ON THEIR SICKBED
AND RESTORES THEM FROM THEIR BED OF ILLNESS.
- ⁴ I SAID, "HAVE MERCY ON ME, LORD;
HEAL ME, FOR I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU."
- ⁵ MY ENEMIES SAY OF ME IN MALICE,
"WHEN WILL HE DIE AND HIS NAME PERISH?"
- ⁶ WHEN ONE OF THEM COMES TO SEE ME,
HE SPEAKS FALSELY, WHILE HIS HEART GATHERS SLANDER;
THEN HE GOES OUT AND SPREADS IT AROUND.
- ⁷ ALL MY ENEMIES WHISPER TOGETHER AGAINST ME;
THEY IMAGINE THE WORST FOR ME, SAYING,
- ⁸ "A VILE DISEASE HAS AFFLICTED HIM;
HE WILL NEVER GET UP FROM THE PLACE WHERE HE LIES."
- ⁹ EVEN MY CLOSE FRIEND,
SOMEONE I TRUSTED,
ONE WHO SHARED MY BREAD,
HAS TURNED AGAINST ME.
- ¹⁰ BUT MAY YOU HAVE MERCY ON ME, LORD;
RAISE ME UP, THAT I MAY REPAY THEM.
- ¹¹ I KNOW THAT YOU ARE PLEASED WITH ME,
FOR MY ENEMY DOES NOT TRIUMPH OVER ME.
- ¹² BECAUSE OF MY INTEGRITY YOU UPHOLD ME
AND SET ME IN YOUR PRESENCE FOREVER.
- ¹³ PRAISE BE TO THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL,
FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING.
AMEN AND AMEN.

REFLECTION from PASTOR DOYLE SURRATT

Have you ever felt like it was all too much, too long, too...everything. When I was a kid my mom used to have a saying for times like these: that we were "sick and tired of being sick and tired". It may be that during this present crisis you've had enough and that you are getting a bit sick and tired of... The longer this drags on the more we have an opportunity to learn how to cope by trusting God and maybe not expecting things of others what they can't or won't deliver.

In Psalm 41 David is physically sick--and emotionally sick as well. Not only doesn't he feel well, but people are being unfair, disloyal and disingenuous. He begins in verses 1-3 with the baseline that God is good and will be fair to those who try to live according to His statutes (including caring for those who are suffering). David is saying that he has been mindful and kind to those suffering and he knows that God will do the same. He then lays himself at the Lord's feet and acknowledges his dependency on God's mercy in verse 4.

Having acknowledged his own predicament in verses 5- 9, he lays out some serious character flaws he sees in those around him. Flaws that are not only ugly but potentially injurious to him if God doesn't intervene. What I find interesting these days is how "real" we've all gotten. We can try to cover who we really are in times of crisis, but it only works barely--and not for long. Have you noticed some in the political arena are trying to "set aside partisanship," but it still pokes its ugly head up much more than is helpful? We just can't help reverting back to who we really are.

David's disingenuous friends were much more transparent than they thought they were being. Notice some of the words he uses to describe them: "He speaks falsely," "His heart gathers slander," "they whisper together against me," "they imagine the worst for me," "saying... he will never get up." Those are terrible things to have someone say about you. People always say you find out who your true friends are when times get tough and you really need help. Let me just say, if you have friends like these you need some new ones pronto!

My hope is that in these difficult times you have found that at least some of your friends have proven to be "true blue" and worthy of your mutual commitment. But let me turn the spotlight on us for a moment. What kind of friends are we during difficult times. Are we "slander gatherers" and "worst-case imaginers" whispering bad things together? Or have you pleasantly surprised someone with the quality of your friendship during this time? I know several people have done so for me (not sure I have for anyone though. Hmmm!).

What we all really are ultimately looking for is friendship with God. In verses 10-12 we see that David turns to God and begins to ask for what only God can give him. To expect from others--friends and family--what only



GROW AT HOME

DAILY DEVOTION

DAY 29

REFLECTION from PASTOR DOYLE SURRATT (CONT'D)

God can give is unfair and, in the end, unrewarded. So David turns to God and asks for basically three things: 1. Mercy, 2. God's intervention, and 3. God's presence.

1. **"Lord have mercy"** - In the end, we can't demand healing, hope or restoration but can only ask for what we do not deserve - God's mercy.
2. **"Lord raise me up"** - while we can't dictate what our Sovereign God will do, we can boldly approach His throne (because he has invited us to do so as His forgiven and reconciled children) and make the deepest desires of our hearts known.
3. **"And set me in your presence forever."** - Lord, no matter what happens here on this earth I know that it is but a flash in time compared to eternity and above all else, I want to spend eternity with you in heaven.

David ends this psalm and this section of psalms with a reminder of the forever and the forever God that he is talking to. It does us well when we are sick and tired of being sick and tired to remember eternity and the God of eternity--who is greater than whatever we are sick and tired of. God is in control. Let Him be in control of you today.

QUESTIONS

- THINK THROUGH HOW EACH OF THE THREE THINGS DAVID ASKS GOD FOR APPLY IN YOUR OWN LIFE:
 - WHICH AREAS OF YOUR LIFE NEED GOD'S MERCY TODAY?
 - WHAT DO YOU NEED TO ASK FOR GOD'S HELP WITH TODAY?
 - HAS YOUR MIND BEEN MORE FOCUSED ON YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES OR ON ETERNITY? HOW CAN YOU MAKE THE SHIFT TOWARDS AN ETERNAL FOCUS?